

2010

## Curricular Report No. 4-2009-10 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate.

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND



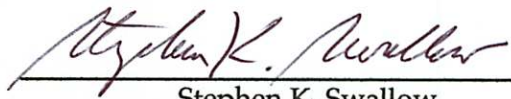
Serial Number #09-10-18

TO: President David Dooley

FROM: Stephen K. Swallow, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Curricular Report No 4-2009-10 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on February 25, 2010.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Governors, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective March 18, 2010 three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Governors for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Governors, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

February 26, 2010  
(date)

  
Stephen K. Swallow  
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

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ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

Returned.

- a. Approved ☒.
- b. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors \_\_\_\_.
- c. Disapproved \_\_\_\_.

3.15.10  
(date)

  
President

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL - UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
CURRICULAR REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE COUNCIL TO THE  
FACULTY SENATE  
REPORT NO. 4, 2009-2010; 25 January 2010**

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**Matters of Information**

**Changes**

1) College of Human Science and Services

Human Development and Family Studies

**HDF 511 Seminar on Infancy Through Childhood (3)** - change in title from Seminar on Infancy and Early Childhood and change in catalog description to read: Examines trajectories, theories and research associated with child development from infancy through childhood. Topics include early brain development, culturally sensitive caregiving, health, education, behavior, and the impact of public policy on this developmental stage. Pre: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

**HDF 512 Seminar on Adolescence Through Young Adulthood (3)** – change in title from Seminar in Middle Childhood and Adolescence and change in description to read: Examine theories and research associated with adolescence and young adulthood. Topics include transitions, risky behaviors, health issues, work-family tensions, and the impact of public policy on this developmental stage. Pre: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

**HDF 513 Seminar in Adulthood (3)** – delete course

**HDF 514 Seminar in Older Adulthood (3)** – change in course number to HDF 513 and change in course description to read: Examine theories and research associated with older adulthood and aging. Emphasis on current research and practice issues. Interdisciplinary focus on biopsychosocial aspects of growing older. Pre: Graduate Standing or permission of instructor.

2) College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Biological Sciences

**BIO 545 Endocrinology II (3)** - change in catalog description and prerequisites to read: Integration of cellular processes with whole animal challenges of early development, growth, metabolism, salt and water balance, adaptation to stress, reproduction, and behavior. Pre: Graduate standing.

3) Graduate School of Oceanography

**OCG 540 Geological Oceanography (4)** - change in credits from 3 to 4 and change in description to read: Origin and evolution of the ocean basin and its margin: morphology, structure, plate tectonics, volcanism, geochemistry, stratigraphy, sedimentation, and paleoceanography. (Lec 3, Lab,2) Pre: GEO 103 or permission of instructor.

4) College of Arts and Sciences

Graduate School of Library and Information Studies

**LSC 545 Indexing and Abstracting (3)** – change in catalog description to read: Create and evaluate indexes for effective retrieval from books, periodicals, and electronic resources. Principles of traditional, automatic, and natural language indexing applied to searches. Abstracting, thesaurus construction, and software evaluation. Pre: LSC 504.

**Proposed GSLIS Policy on Academic Standing and Scholastic Probation**

**Academic Standards for Matriculating MLIS Students:** A student shall be placed on scholastic probation (provisional status) if the student's cumulative scholastic average falls below a 3.00. If the student is unable to achieve a cumulative average of 3.00 at the end of the next semester, or if the student's cumulative average falls below 3.00 again in a subsequent semester, GSLIS will recommend to the Graduate School that the student be dismissed from the MLIS program for academic reasons.

For purposes of determining dismissal of part-time students, an accumulation of nine (9) attempted credits will be considered as the minimum standard for one semester's work. Therefore, a matriculated student shall be recommended for dismissal for scholastic reasons if he or she earns a cumulative average of:

- Less than 2.5 for the first 6 attempted credits
- Less than 2.7 for the first 9 attempted credits
- Less than 2.75 for the first 12 attempted credits
- Less than 2.8 for the first 15 attempted credits
- Less than 3.0 for the first 18 attempted credits, or at any subsequent point in the program

In addition, no course for which a student earns less than a C shall be counted toward graduation. A student earning less than a C in a required course must take the course again for program credit; a student earning less than a C in an elective may substitute a different course for program credit.

A course with a failing grade that has been retaken or replaced will be considered taken for no plan credit but must remain on the student's transcript and be included in calculating the quality point average. If the course is retaken and a satisfactory grade achieved, it may then be used to satisfy degree requirements. In all cases any failing grade (a grade of C- or lower for 500- 600 level, a grade of B- or lower for 400 level courses) must be included in the grade point average and appear on the transcript.

When a student receives a report of "incomplete" (I) or when no grade is reported, the student's standing shall be calculated from the remainder of the student's work.

Notification: A student whose grade point average falls below 3.00 is notified by the Graduate School (see attached sample letter from the Associate Dean of the Graduate School). The Director of the Library School will request that the Graduate School attach an additional letter from GSLIS, explaining the above criteria for academic dismissal, and that the student be dismissed if the criteria are met.

Procedure for Appealing Dismissal: The Director of GSLIS, in consultation with the Dean of the Graduate School, will notify any student who is subject to academic probation or dismissal.

Students recommended for dismissal shall have the right to appeal to the Director within five business days of the date of notice by filing with the Director a written statement explaining the extenuating circumstances and stating the reasons why the dismissal action should not prevail.

A scholastic standing committee shall be established for GSLIS. The membership shall comprise the Director and two or more GSLIS faculty members. This committee shall review the student's appeal and confirm the recommendation for dismissal, or recommend continuing the student on probation. The recommendation from the Scholastic Standing Committee will be forwarded to the Graduate School for review and determination of student status.

The Scholastic Standing Committee shall meet as soon after the end of each final grade period as is practicable.

Reinstatement of Matriculating Students: The GSLIS Admissions Committee may recommend a student who has been dismissed for reenrollment after a period of one academic year. The student seeking reinstatement shall submit a written request to the Admissions Committee. If in the Committee's judgment, incorporating

the evidence from any LIS work or course work taken elsewhere, the student may reasonably be expected to do satisfactory work, it shall forward its recommendation for reenrollment to the Graduate School.

**Appeal of Grades:** Faculty members bear responsibility for the evaluation of students and their professional judgment in this regard is to be respected.

1. GSLIS students who object to a recorded grade in a course should discuss the matter initially with the instructor.
2. If the issue remains unresolved, students should make their case in writing to the GSLIS Director. If the Director thinks the appeal has merit, she/he should so inform the instructor.
3. If this still fails to produce resolution, the Director should refer the matter to the GSLIS Scholastic Standing Committee for a recommendation. (For petitions concerning grades, the Scholastic Standing Committee shall include a faculty member from a closely allied department or discipline.)
  - a. If, after investigating the appeal, the committee concludes that compelling reasons exist to modify a grade, it will give the instructor a written explanation of its decision and ask that person to make the change.
  - b. If the instructor still declines, he/she must provide the committee with a written explanation of the reasons for refusing.
  - c. If, after considering the instructor's explanation, the committee agrees *unanimously* that it would be unjust to let the original grade stand, it shall direct the Director that the grade be changed over the instructor's objection. The Director will then initiate the change, notifying the instructor, the student, the instructor's dean, the student's dean, and the Office of Student Affairs of this action.

The only exception to these guidelines shall be in cases where the instructor can no longer be consulted (e.g., that person has died or moved to an unknown address). In these circumstances, the Director shall act in the stead of the absent instructor and modify a student's grade if a departmental or college appeals committee unanimously recommends such action in writing. In general, grades under appeal should not be considered when evaluating students for continuance in an academic program or for scholarship eligibility. The filing of the appeal must occur within two semesters following the issuing of the grade.

### **Proposed change to GSLIS admissions policy**

The current GSLIS admissions policy reads:

*"Admission requirements: bachelor's degree (B average); if undergraduate GPA is below 3.00 or equivalent, GRE or MAT at the 50th percentile or above" (URI 2009-10 Catalog, p. 148).*



At the September 2, 2009 meeting, the GSLIS faculty voted to amend this to read:

*"Admission requirements: bachelor's degree (B average); if undergraduate GPA is below 3.30 or equivalent, GRE or MAT at the 50th percentile or above."*

Rationale: The GSLIS admissions policy was last amended in 2006, permitting the waiver of standardized tests for all applicants who have earned either advanced degrees or undergraduate averages of at least 3.00. Although we had never found test scores a useful predictor of student performance, after three years of trial, we believe the bar should be set higher.

### **Curricular Matters which Require Consideration by the Faculty Senate**

#### **New Courses**

- 1) Graduate School of Oceanography

#### **OCG 648 Paleooceanography (3)**

Paleooceanography (3) Earth history and its relation to global climate. Tools, data, and concepts related to past climate change as observed in the oceanic, ice, and terrestrial records (Lec. 3). Pre: OCG 540

#### **Changes**

- 1) College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Cell and Molecular Biology

**\*Name change** for Masters degree and Masters Program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences to Medical Laboratory Sciences beginning with the 2010--2011 Academic year.

- 2) Graduate School of Oceanography

#### **Change in required courses for the physical oceanography option of the M.S. in Oceanography**

Students pursuing an M.S. in Oceanography degree under the physical oceanography emphasis are now required to take OCG 501 Physical Oceanography, OCG 510 Descriptive Physical Oceanography, and OCG 613 Waves. The previous requirement to take two of the three courses (OCG 605, 610 and 613) is no longer valid.

**\*May require Board of Governors review**